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REHABILITATION SERVICES



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News Release

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Alabama communities honor businesses that employ people with disabilities

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), will have 14 special events throughout the state as part of the October observance of National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEA) Month.

The events will honor businesses that provide opportunities for successful employment for people with disabilities and recognize the success and contributions of individuals with disabilities in the workforce.

This year's theme is "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

"Employers are looking for a competent workforce, and qualified people with disabilities are available," said Peggy Anderson, ADRS administrator for business relations. "Alabamians with disabilities are being trained for jobs in every sector of the business community, and employers are welcoming their skills as these workers prove they are *equal to the task*."

Awards will be presented in 11 different categories and honor contributions from community partners, youth, educators, the news media, and local professionals. More than 110 awards will be given throughout the state, with the local winners competing for statewide recognition at a special event at the Capitol later this year.

The Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities was created by former Gov. Jim Folsom in the late 1940s as a response to veterans with disabilities who returned home to find

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PROVIDING SERVICES TO ALABAMIANS WITH DISABILITIES

no work available. Since that time, many individuals with disabilities – veterans as well as civilians – have received the benefit of Governor's Committee activities. The committee coordinates a network of local volunteer groups throughout the state and works closely with ADRS staff to develop employment opportunities and raise awareness of the needs and rights of Alabamians with disabilities.

The mission of ADRS is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential. In fiscal year 2012, the department assisted 3,915 Alabamians with disabilities in becoming successfully employed.

For information about NDEA Month events in your area, contact Peggy Anderson at 205-290-4457.

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Disability **FACTS**



➔ **56.7 million**

number of people with a disability living in the United States¹

➔ **33%**



percentage of civilian, noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 with a disability who are employed²

➔ **\$19,735**

median earnings for people with a disability (compared to \$30,285 for those without a disability)²

➔ **23%**

percentage of people with disabilities living in poverty (compared to 15 percent of those with no disability)²



Most people with disabilities entering the workplace **do not require accommodations**, but for those who do, the accommodations are generally not expensive:

- ➔ 15 percent of accommodations cost NOTHING.
- ➔ 50 percent of accommodations cost less than \$500.
- ➔ The most-requested accommodation is a flexible work schedule. ³

¹ Americans with Disabilities: 2010; ² 2011 American Community Survey; ³ Job Accommodation Network (JAN)



The Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of Disabilities is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.